

Alvarius Hanks

KNOWLTON ALVARIUS HANKS

Son of Lottie Francis, dau of William Henry Bagley

Born 27 September 1899 at Charleston, Utah

Died 8 April 1919 at Mare Island

Knowlton Alvarious Hanks was born on September 27, 1899 at Charleston, Utah. When four years old his parents moved to Taylor, Idaho. They lived there two years. One year was spent living on the butte east and south of Shelley, Idaho. Afterwhich his folks purchased a farm in Shelley and they moved there. He was baptized in the Snake river September 5, 1908.

He attended school in the old red brick school house in Shelley for eight years. After leaving school he helped his father on the farm until the fall of 1918, when he enlisted in the Marines. While waiting for his call he worked for the Utah Sugar Factory in Shelley. The heat and the very high humidity there made him very susceptible to the influenza that was at epidemic stage at that time.

After receiving his call he got as far as Salt Lake City, Utah and became ill with the "flu" and remained there until he recovered. While there he watched the funeral procession of President Joseph F. Smith from his hotel window. As soon as he was well he left for Mare Island in California. His rundown condition, along with the rigid training and damp weather resulted in an attack of pneumonia, followed by a relapse and his death April 8, 1919. Word of his illness had been sent to his parents and his father was able to reach his bedside before he passed away.

Alvarious's funeral was the first military funeral held in the new Shelley First Ward chapel. The American Legion attended in a group with the usual body guard and color formation. Memories of a flag-draped casket and the distant sound of "Taps" will always remain with the family.

He was nicknamed "Tot" by his father, a name which followed him throughout his life. His blue eyes, light brown hair, and fair complexion, along with a sturdy well-built made him a handsome youth.